

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



Hurricane Aid

**Linemen Help
Restore Power After
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What is Driving Power Costs-

How it impacts our future electric rates



Tim O'Leary
General Manager

I would like to continue the conversation that I started in last month's newsletter article on electric rates by focusing on the costs that are increasing purchase power rates for the cooperative. This will be the first article in a series of three articles where I do a little deeper dive into what is causing costs to increase and how the higher costs will impact our future electric rates. This month's article will focus on Basin Electric (Basin) and the Western Area Power Administration

(WAPA). These two organizations generate or purchase the power that is ultimately used in your home or business. East River Electric Power Cooperative (East River) is our transmission provider and purchases from Basin and WAPA the electric power needed by our member-owners through an all requirements purchase power contract.

As a reminder, purchased power costs make up around 60% of all costs at the cooperative and they make up the largest portion of our uncontrollable costs. Basin provided 83% and WAPA provided 17% of the cooperative's power supply in 2023. Basin and WAPA's transmission lines and substations are interconnected and make up the integrated transmission system that delivers electric power across their multi-state service areas.

WAPA is in the middle of their rate increase process, and they are looking at implementing the increase over a two-year period. This will result in an approximate rate increase of 7.5% in 2025 and a similar amount in 2026. WAPA power continues to make up a smaller portion of our purchased power costs as new loads are developed across the East River system. Our percentage of power that comes from WAPA will decrease to 16% in 2025. WAPA's rate increase is based on inflation and maintenance projects to improve reliability of their generation and transmission assets.

Basin Electric has filed for a 6.5% rate increase with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and this increase will be implemented on January 1, 2025. I touched on the primary drivers in last month's article, but I wanted to follow that up with a little more detail this month. The drivers included: load growth and investments in reliability, decreased sales to non-members, inflation, and the volatility of the power markets.

Load Growth and Investments in Reliability – Basin is planning to make an investment in their generation and transmission assets of nearly \$8B over the next 10 years. The investments will help them meet member load growth and ensure reliable electric power for their member-owners, which includes Lyon-Lincoln Electric Co-op and its member-owners.

Decreased sales to non-members – The market where Basin sells excess power to non-members has changed as more generation has been built, which has influenced prices and the ability to sell excess power.

Inflation – This cost driver does not need an explanation since we see the impact of inflation in our everyday lives and Basin is no different. Inflation has increased costs for internal and contracted labor, materials, borrowing costs, and insurance.

Power Market Volatility – This driver deals with the type of generation that is in the market and when Basin is forced to buy from the market to meet their member-owner needs. The type of generation in the market is changing as it moves from base load generating facilities (coal, nuclear, and some natural gas and hydro) to more intermittent facilities (wind, solar, and some natural gas and hydro). This change in generation sources leads to higher market prices and higher costs to Basin when it needs to buy from the market.

I hope that this helps provide some background on why our power generators are increasing their rates. Next month I will focus on cost drivers at East River and then the following month I will finish the three part series with an article on cost drivers impacting your local electric cooperative.



COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

LYON-LINCOLN ELECTRIC

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www.llec.coop

Lyon-Lincoln Electric Winter hours are 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM Monday thru Friday

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Jessica Gums, Editor



COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY:

OPERATION ROUNDUP SCHOLARSHIPS

Each year Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative, along with Basin Electric Cooperative, demonstrates commitment to community by awarding scholarships to deserving students in our service area. We take great pride in our ability to assist in developing rural leadership in our region through this scholarship program.

HOW DO I APPLY?

Applying for both the Basin and LLEC scholarships are easy. Students simply need to complete one Basin Electric scholarship application to be eligible for both scholarships.

The scholarship application can be found on the Lyon-Lincoln Electric website by visiting: www.llec.coop/scholarships.

Applications can also be requested from the Co-Op office and through your high school guidance counselor.

The application deadline is Friday, February 7th, 2025.

We would like to encourage students to consider applying for these scholarship opportunities in 2025.

There is no better way to kick off the new year than with some free money from your local electric cooperative!

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR 2025

Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative and our generation and transmission cooperative, Basin Electric, are once again investing in area youth as we enter the new year. Applications are now being accepted for the Basin Electric and Lyon-Lincoln Electric scholarship programs.

Basin Electric is headquartered in Bismarck, North Dakota, and operates the power plants and generation resources that provide electricity to more than 140 member cooperatives across nine different states, including Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative. Every year, Basin Electric awards a \$1,000 scholarship to a high school senior or college student from each of its member cooperatives. Lyon-Lincoln Electric is a member cooperative of Basin Electric and has been offering this \$1,000 scholarship to students in our service territory for the past 32 years. Basin Electric has awarded more than 5,000 scholarships worth more than \$5 million since the scholarship program began three decades ago.

Lyon-Lincoln Electric has also offered its own scholarship in conjunction with the Basin Electric scholarship program. Lyon-Lincoln Electric offers a \$500 scholarship to each of the schools in our service area, through our Operation RoundUp Program.

Your local co-ops offer scholarships because it is the cooperative way. Locally owned and operated electric cooperatives were created by members of our local communities to serve our communities. Scholarships are a way for cooperatives to invest in the students who will be the future leaders of our co-ops and our communities.

**Scholarship applications must be received by:
February 7th, 2025**

ENJOY A SAFE HOLIDAY SEASON

From late November to mid-January, when families gather, parties are scheduled and travel spikes, safety should be top of mind. Following is tried-and-true advice to ensure your family remains safe and injury-free throughout the season.

Traveling for the Holidays? Be Prepared

If you're traveling this year, be sure your vehicle is in good running condition, get plenty of rest and be prepared for any emergency. Traveling by car during the holidays has the highest fatality rate of any major form of transportation based on fatalities per passenger mile. Hundreds of people die every year in crashes on New Year's Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day, according to Injury Facts. Alcohol impairment is involved in about a third of these fatalities.

Stay safe on the roads over the holidays – and every day:

- Prepare your car for winter and keep an emergency kit with you.
- Get a good night's sleep before departing and avoid drowsy driving.
- Leave early, planning ahead for heavy traffic.
- Make sure every person in the vehicle is properly buckled up no matter how long or short the distance traveled.
- Put that cell phone away; many distractions occur while driving, but cell phones are the main culprit.
- Practice defensive driving.
- Designate a sober driver to ensure guests make it home safely after a holiday party; alcohol or over-the-counter, prescription and illegal drugs can cause impairment.

Decorate Safely

Decorating is one of the best ways to get in a holiday mood, but emergency departments see thousands of injuries involving holiday decorating every season.

When decorating follow these tips from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission:

- Keep potentially poisonous plants – mistletoe, holly berries, Jerusalem cherry and amaryllis – away from children.
- If using an artificial tree, check that it is labeled “fire resistant.”
- If using a live tree, cut off about two inches of the trunk to

expose fresh wood for better water absorption, remember to water it, and remove it from your home when it is dry.

- Place your tree at least three feet away from fireplaces, radiators and other heat sources, making certain not to block doorways.
- Avoid placing breakable ornaments or ones with small, detachable parts on lower tree branches where small children can reach them.
- Only use indoor lights indoors and outdoor lights outdoors, and choose the right ladder for the task when hanging lights.
- Replace light sets that have broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires or loose connections.
- Follow the package directions on the number of light sets that can be plugged into one socket.
- Never nail, tack or stress wiring when hanging lights, and keep plugs off the ground away from puddles and snow.
- Turn off all lights and decorations when you go to bed or leave the house.

Source: National Safety Council



**“Don’t Spill Water on Electronics...
It Could Start a FIRE!”**

Bethany Langworthy, Age 9

Bethany Langworthy warns readers to be careful with water around electronics. Thank you for your picture, Bethany! Bethany's parents are Kristina and Edward Langworthy, members of West River Electric.

Kids, send your drawing with an electrical safety tip to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). If your poster is published, you'll receive a prize. All entries must include your name, age, mailing address and the names of your parents. Colored drawings are encouraged.

Family FAVORITES

CREAM CHEESE AND CUCUMBER SPREAD DIP

Ingredients:

1 large cucumber, grated
1 tsp. onion, grated
8 oz. pkg. cream cheese
3/4-1 cup mayonnaise
Salt and pepper to taste

Method

Grate cucumber and onion on several thicknesses of paper towels, squeeze out all the water. Place in a bowl. Blend other ingredients, adding enough mayonnaise to make it a spreading consistency. Serve with crackers or chips.

Mary Ann Klarenbeek
Harrisburg, S.D.

GRANDMA GRACE'S FROZEN FRUIT SALAD

Ingredients:

8 oz. Cool Whip
1 tbsp. lemon juice
1 cup sour cream
3/4 cup sugar
Dash of salt

*Mix all thoroughly until
sugar is dissolved.*

9 oz. can pineapple, crushed
and drained
Small jar maraschino cherries
(halve or chopped if desired)
2 sliced bananas (halve or
quarter slices if desired)
1/4 cup chopped walnuts

Method

Mix thoroughly. Pour into 8x8 or 9x9 container. Cover and freeze. Thaw 10-15 minutes to allow cutting into serving portions.

My mother, Grace Alley, first made this salad for holiday meals. It has become a family favorite, and we always have it for one of our holidays.

Mary Harris
Glad Valley, S.D.

LEMON ROSEMARY GLAZED HAM

Ingredients:

1 bone-in spiral-cut ham,
about 10 lbs.
1 1/4 cups honey, divided
2 tsp. lemon extract
1 1/4 tsp. whole rosemary
leaves, crushed, divided

Method

Preheat oven to 325°F. Place the ham on its side in roasting pan. Mix 1 cup of the honey, 1 1/2 tsp. of the extract and 1 tsp. of the rosemary in small bowl until well blended. Brush 1/2 of the honey mixture over ham, gently separating the slices so mixture can reach middle of ham. Cover loosely with foil.

Bake 1 hour, basting occasionally with pan drippings. Remove foil. Brush with remaining honey mixture. Bake 45 minutes longer.

Meanwhile, mix remaining 1/4 cup honey, 1/2 tsp. extract and 1/4 tsp. rosemary in small bowl. Serve with ham along with the pan drippings.

McCormick.com

Please send your favorite recipes to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in December 2024. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.

September 2024 Board Meeting Minutes

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative was held on Monday, September 23, 2024. Directors present James Rokeh, Kathy Schreurs, Scott Johnson, Dale Fier, Mike Longtin, Jared Dritz, Joel Buyck, Galen Grant, and Mary Gunnink. Also present: Finance Manager, Kristi Jensen, and Attorney, Michael W. Cable and General Manager, Timothy O'Leary.

The Board and others in attendance stood and gave the Pledge of Allegiance. President, Dale Fier, then called the meeting to order and routine business was conducted including approval of the August 26, 2024 meeting minutes, a review of the check schedule, applications for memberships, and shares to be cancelled.

Finance Manager, Kristi Jensen, gave the Financial and Statistical Report for the period ending July 31, 2024. The Board reviewed an East River Electric Power Cooperative, Inc. payment to the Cooperative for the sale of renewable energy credits (RECs), also reviewed information received from National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation describing the Patronage Capital Disbursement Selection Confirmation, and were advised on the Cooperative Response Center, Inc. patronage allocation and refund.

Lyle Lamote, Line Superintendent, gave the Outage Report for the month of August, 2024. He indicated there was a Safety Meeting held on August 1, 2024 involving the topic of hot line work and

working within the minimum approach distance (MAD).

The presentation was conducted by MREA's Safety Instructor, Shawn Marthaler. He also indicated that the linemen were doing the following: replacing five miles of three phase underground line west of Marshall and working on three underground projects. These projects would conclude the construction season.

Brian Jeremiason, Manager of Marketing and External Relations, gave his report as follows: The Cooperative is in the early stages of converting its website to the new SHiNE content management system which is offered through Touchstone Energy, East River Electric Power Cooperative, Inc. shared a monthly report on the Load Management Program and the savings it provides, and has been working with the Marshall Radio Station to develop some new ads. The Cooperative will continue to run ads about solar, EVs and harvest safety for the next couple of months. In November, the Cooperative will replace the harvest safety ads with winter preparedness ads and winter energy efficiency tips.

General Manager, Timothy O'Leary, gave his General Manager's Report and was as follows: the Board reviewed the August power bill and sales to members and compared those figures to budgeted amounts, looked at line loss for the system, reported on the East River MAC Meeting, advised the Board that Cooperative employees have been reviewing some tactics to meet

the strategic planning goals set out by the Board, and provided a review of upcoming meetings and notices.

The Board also reviewed and approved the General Manager's Expense Report.

The Board reviewed the August 2024 Cyber Security Program Report, along with the Phishing Report, presented by the East River Cyber Security Department.

The Board recessed for lunch at 12:06pm and reconvened at 12:40pm.

Vice-President, Mike Longtin, discussed with the Board the meeting he had attended for East River Electric Power Cooperative, Inc.

There was discussion held with the Board concerning the NRECA, CFC, and RESCO Region 5/6 Meeting. The Resolutions presented at the 5/6 Meeting went through as presented, there was a report provided by Federated, as well as a report concerning cyber security programs.

The Board reviewed the following Policies:

- 301 – Functions
- 302 – Policy Formulation and Approval
- 303 – Fiduciary Duties
- 304 – Ethical Conduct
- 305 – Indemnification
- 306 – Compensation and Reimbursement.

After discussion there were no changes recommended by the Board.

There being no further business to come before the Board, President, Dale Fier, adjourned the meeting at 2:05pm.

CAPITAL CREDITS:

IT PAYS TO BE A MEMBER

Capital Credits are your share of the cooperative's "profits". Per Lyon-Lincoln Electric's bylaws, the Board of Directors determines the amount of retirement each year based on the financial condition of the Cooperative.

Capital credits at not-for-profit companies are similar to dividends paid by for-profit companies. The difference is the cooperative's "Shareholders" are the people it serves and the dividends (capital credits) are paid only to those members.

Of the 702 electric cooperatives across the nation, Lyon-Lincoln Electric is ranked #21 in the amount of capital credits it pays back to its members. The Board recently approved retiring over \$500,000 in capital credits. If you purchased electricity from the Cooperative during 2002 & 2019, your credit is listed as a "Capital Credit Refund" on your statement. The 2004 & 2005 credits are a retirement from East River Electric Cooperative that we will be passing along to members.

How Capital Credits Work

Unlike investor-owned utilities, Lyon-Lincoln Electric is a not-for-profit organization that returns its profits, or "margins" back to its members. As a member, you are a part-owner of the co-op and entitled to receive money back through capital credit retirements.

Here is how they work:

1



LLEC assesses its margins and allocates capital credits to each member based on the amount of electricity they used in a given year.

2



Before these capital credits are officially "retired" and given to the members, they are reinvested into equipment to improve service.

3



LLEC carefully tracks the amount owed to each member in capital credits to ensure that everyone receives the correct amount when they are retired.

4



Each year, the board of directors evaluates the financial condition of the Cooperative to determine if it is prudent to officially retire capital credits for a given calendar year.

5



When capital credits are retired, all members who receive service in that given calendar year receive a credit on their bill. Make sure you keep your address updated if you move!



WIN MONEY

FIND YOUR NAME & MEMBER #

The tradition of listing member names and numbers in the newsletter continues in the Co-op Connections. If you find your name and member number, call the office and let us know and you will receive a \$20 energy credit.

In last month's Co-op Connections, Colin J. Aune and Duane Weedman were listed and will receive an energy credit if they spotted their names and called the office. Once again, there are two new names and numbers hidden in this issue. Good Luck! ●

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

TIP OF THE MONTH

If you're planning to purchase electronic gifts this holiday season, look for the ENERGY STAR® label, which indicates higher energy efficiency performance. Electronics that receive the ENERGY STAR® rating are up to 25% more efficient than standard products. This holiday season, give the gift of energy savings with ENERGY STAR®-rated electronics and equipment.

Source: energystar.gov



HURRICANE AID

Linemen Help Restore Power After Hurricane Helene

Jacob Boyko

jacob.boyko@sdrea.coop

Linemen from five of South Dakota's rural electric cooperatives traveled to the Southeastern U.S. in October to help restore power along Hurricane Helene's path of destruction.

The 18 linemen left Oct. 2 for Pickens, South Carolina, where Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative faced over 64,000 meter outages and more than 800 broken poles in Helene's aftermath.

Zach Hansen, a lineman from West River Electric Association, didn't think twice before he volunteered to go along.

"It's just the co-op way," he said. "There are people in need down there who lost their houses – lost their lives – and this is something we know we can do to help. It's kind of a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

The linemen stayed at a crowded base camp with dozens of other utility workers from all across the country. They slept on cots in a large, open army-sized tent, but with their busy schedules, they didn't spend

much time there anyway. Most days, the linemen woke at 5:30 a.m. for breakfast and worked in the field until supper at 8 p.m.

The work also presented unfamiliar challenges for the linemen; each time the crew needed to repair damaged infrastructure, they'd first have to start the labor-intensive process of clearing through debris and trees toppled by Helene's heavy wind gusts.

"When we have blizzards and ice storms in South Dakota, it's hard work – and you're trying to stay warm," Hansen explained. "But out here, there's a lot more chainsaw work and fixing wire breaks. It's not just straight miles of line lying down like we're used to at home."

By Oct. 9, fewer than 1,000 meters in Blue Ridge Electric territory remained offline, and the South





Dakota crews were dismissed to begin the 1,200-plus mile journey home.

But as the South Dakota convoy – which included bucket trucks, skid steers and ATVs – moved north, another call came in.

Jefferson Energy Cooperative in Wrens, Georgia, also faced catastrophic damage to their distribution lines, with 100% of their service territory without power after the storm. On Oct. 9, as South Dakota's linemen were driving home from South Carolina to reunite with their families, still over 10,000 homes and businesses remained without power.

Just like before, South Dakota's rural electric cooperatives answered the call.

"When our line superintendent called me that morning and asked me how we felt about going to Georgia, I said, 'well, we're right here, so we might as well go in and help,'" Bon Homme Yankton lineman Gunnar Dally said. "If they need help, we're more than willing to come."

The stop in Wrens delayed the linemen's return home by about a week, but the appreciation from the communities helped keep spirits high.

"When we were on breaks, there were people stopping to thank us for helping," Dally said. "A lot of them were very surprised when we said we were from South Dakota."

Hansen recognized another subset

of heroes: the families.

"The unsung heroes of storm jobs are the people we leave behind," he said. "My wife is at home with six kids taking care of the ranch while I'm gone. If we didn't have those people, we couldn't go out and do the things we needed to do. They are the real heroes."

SDREA General Manager Steve Barnett thanked the linemen for volunteering to help with the storm restoration efforts and for embodying

the values of South Dakota's rural electric cooperatives.

"These 18 linemen gave up time at home with their families to help people in need they've never met in a place they've never been," Barnett said. "Their selfless actions reflect what we stand for as a family of cooperatives, as South Dakotans, and as fellow Americans. We thank them for their work, their spirit and their dedication to keeping the lights on – at home, and in South Carolina and Georgia."



Making the Switch to an Electric Vehicle?

You're likely noticing more electric vehicles (EVs) on the road and charging stations in shopping areas and other public locations. The increasing popularity of EVs is being driven by several factors, such as new vehicle options, lower prices, additional charging stations and financial incentives.

According to Kelley Blue Book (KBB), EVs accounted for 7.6% of all sales in 2023, which is up from 5.9% in 2022. That market share is even larger when factoring in hybrid vehicles.

While EVs may not work for everyone's daily driving requirements, which depend on commute times, public charging availability and additional factors, EVs can provide many benefits, such as lower operating costs and less maintenance.

If you're considering making the switch to an EV, Lyon-Lincoln Electric is here to help. As your trusted local energy partner, we can help you make informed decisions about home charging options and factors to help you decide if an EV works for your typical driving needs.

Types of EVs

There are three common types of EVs. All-electric vehicles, also known as battery electric vehicles or BEVs, are powered solely by a large battery. Because BEVs are powered by a rechargeable battery and do not use gasoline, they produce zero emissions. On average, BEVs can run on a full battery for 110-300 miles.

Plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs) are powered by a combination of a large battery, an electric motor and a gas-powered engine. PHEVs recharge battery power from regenerative braking and can also be plugged in to a standard outlet. Depending on the model, they can run on full battery power (alone) for 15-60 miles.

Hybrid electric vehicles (HEVs) use an electric motor to assist gas-powered engines. Similar to PHEVs, HEVs can also recharge their battery power from regenerative braking, but the power comes from the gas engine, and they do not plug in to an electrical outlet.

Home Charging Options

Most new BEVs and PHEVs include a Level 1 charging unit (110-volt-compatible), which can be plugged into any standard household electrical outlet. A Level 1 charger typically provides two to five miles of range per hour of charging, which may work for those with shorter daily commutes.

For lengthier daily drive times, Level 2 chargers can be installed for faster charging, at 10-30 miles of range per hour. A Level 2 charger uses 240-volt service, which may require electrical upgrades conducted by a licensed electrician.

Lyon-Lincoln Electric can help

Consumer interest in EVs is growing and that's why Lyon-Lincoln Electric provides information about charging requirements and vehicle options so our members can make informed EV purchasing decisions.

We also offer a special EV rebate to Lyon-Lincoln Electric Members. Terry Gackstetter - 682705. By registering your vehicle with Lyon-Lincoln, you help us better understand how members are utilizing their power so we can manage long-term infrastructure and efficient rate planning, putting money back in your pocket.

EV REBATES

Lyon-Lincoln Electric members with battery electric vehicles and plug-in hybrids can receive a rebate by completing the EV Rebate application found at: llec.coop/rebates

- Must be an Active LLEC Member
- Must Own an EV or PHEV
- Vehicle Must be Owned and Registered to a LLEC Member Within LLEC's Service Territory
- Must Have Been Purchased After 01/01/2020
- \$1 Meter Charge per Month for this Special Rate
- EV Rates are as Follows:
 - *Billed at 6.5 cents per kWh via sub-meter between the hours of:
 - 10:00AM — 4:00PM
 - 9:00PM — 7:00AM
 - *Billed at 32.5 cents per kWh. via sub-meter between the hours of:
 - 7:00AM — 10:00AM
 - 4:00PM — 9:00PM



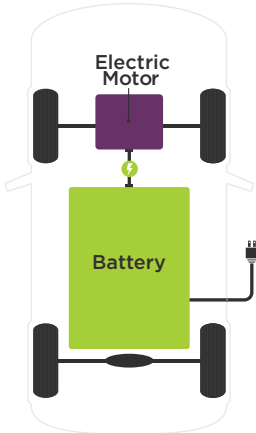
If you own an EV or purchase one in the future, we encourage you to contact Lyon-Lincoln Electric. As more consumers make the switch to EVs, it's important for the co-op to understand EV charging needs for our local community.

If you're considering making the switch to an EV, contact Lyon-Lincoln Electric for more information about charging options and requirements, as well as energy-saving tips for the road ahead.

EV BUYER'S GUIDE

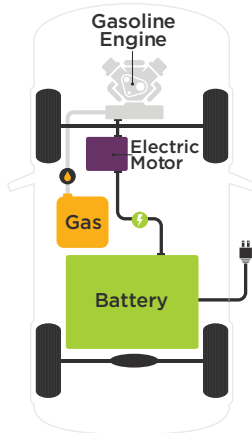
Considering an electric vehicle? Use this guide as you consider vehicle options.

Types of EVs



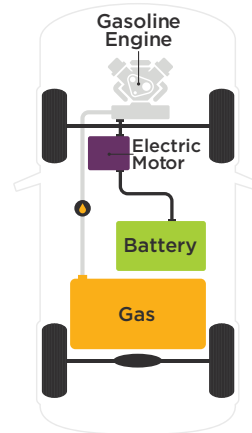
Battery Electric Vehicle (BEV):

Fully powered by an electric battery; no gas-powered components.



Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicle (PHEV):

Contains an engine, electric motor and large battery; can operate in electric-only mode, engine-only mode or hybrid mode (battery and gas).



Hybrid Electric Vehicle (HEV):

Low-emission vehicles; electric motor assists gas-powered engine. Fully powered by gasoline (no charging).

Average Battery Range



BEV: 110-300 miles **full battery*

PHEV: 15-60 miles on battery power **full battery*
(PHEVs can run on battery and/or gas power.)

Home Charging Options

Level 1:

- 110-volt service
- 2-5 miles of range per hour of charging
- Typically does not require electrical upgrades

Level 2:

- 240-volt service
- 10-30 miles of range per hour of charging
- Faster than level 1
- May require electrical upgrades



Considerations Before Buying

- Public charging options near you
- Federal, state and local financial incentives
- Battery warranties
- Potential changes to auto insurance



THE NAME OF THE BATTERY GAME

Making the Most of EV Range

EV Drivers are usually well versed on how to make the most of their car's battery charge. For the rest of us, what factors impact how long a charge lasts?

LIMIT 70

Driving Patterns

Higher speeds require more battery power than lower speeds



Acceleration Rate

Taking the lead out of your foot helps improve your car's battery range



In-Town vs. Highway

In-town driving has its benefits. Braking charges the battery and coasting conserves energy.



Weather

While all types of conditions affect battery range, frigid temps drain it the quickest.



Heat/AC

Controlling the comfort inside your EV is the biggest power drain only to driving it.



STAYING SAFE

First responders put out a fire near Belle Fourche.
Photo submitted by Butte Electric Cooperative.

Butte Electric Cooperative Connects With First Responders

Frank Turner

frank.turner@sdrea.coop

October marks First Responders Month, a time to honor the dedication and courage of those who rush toward danger to keep their communities safe. This fall, electric cooperatives across the country expressed their gratitude to these everyday heroes who are always prepared to protect lives and the essential infrastructure that supports local neighborhoods.

Day or night, regardless of the weather, first responders answer the call, whether it's battling a blaze or responding to a medical emergency. When it comes to keeping the community safe, their collaboration with local electric co-ops is key for both local residents and the first responders themselves. Together, they work to ensure that emergencies are managed quickly, effectively and, most importantly, safely.

In September, Butte Electric further strengthened its ties and

communications with local first responders following an eventful summer by hosting a series of safety demonstrations for emergency crews in Meade and Butte Counties and the U.S. Forest Service.

"Earlier this year we faced several incidents that resulted in exposed power lines near first responders," said Matt Sleep, chief executive officer of Butte Electric. "In one case, we had a situation west of Spearfish where strong winds brought down a billboard, exposing lines that sparked and started a fire."

Both Butte Electric and the local fire department responded to the emergency, de-energizing the lines and containing the small grass fire. In a separate incident, a driver suffered a medical emergency and crashed into an electrical pedestal. Although the driver died in the accident, the actions of first responders and the electric cooperative prevented further injuries. The incident, among others, prompted Butte Electric to take proactive steps in preparation for the next possible emergency.

"We wanted to both educate responders and build some rapport, so when they see a power line, they know who to call and that they are comfortable getting in contact with us," said Sleep.

Butte Electric employees organized and led a hands-on safety training using the South Dakota Rural Electric Association's high voltage demonstration trailer, a specialized tool



that highlights the very real dangers of electricity. During the session, linemen demonstrated how electricity can arc, or jump, from one connection to another, always seeking the easiest path to the ground.

The training is one that linemen across the state have facilitated, which includes a memorable demonstration involving a grapefruit to show how contact with electricity impacts organic material. On the outside, the grapefruit appears undamaged after contact with an electrified line but cutting it open reveals it's been cooked from the inside.

The training left an impression with Trevor Papenfuss, an assistant fire management fire officer who has served with the U.S. Forest Service in the Spearfish area for more than 30 years. Papenfuss was just one of roughly 30 U.S. Forest Service members who attended the demonstration.

"We deal with incidents involving electricity at least once a year, if not more," Papenfuss said. "Butte

Electric provided us with a lot of valuable information and a powerful demonstration. Seeing a grapefruit burn from the inside out makes a big impact and impression of just how dangerous live electricity can be. Several of our new wildland firefighters attended and they took away information that will stay with them for a long time."

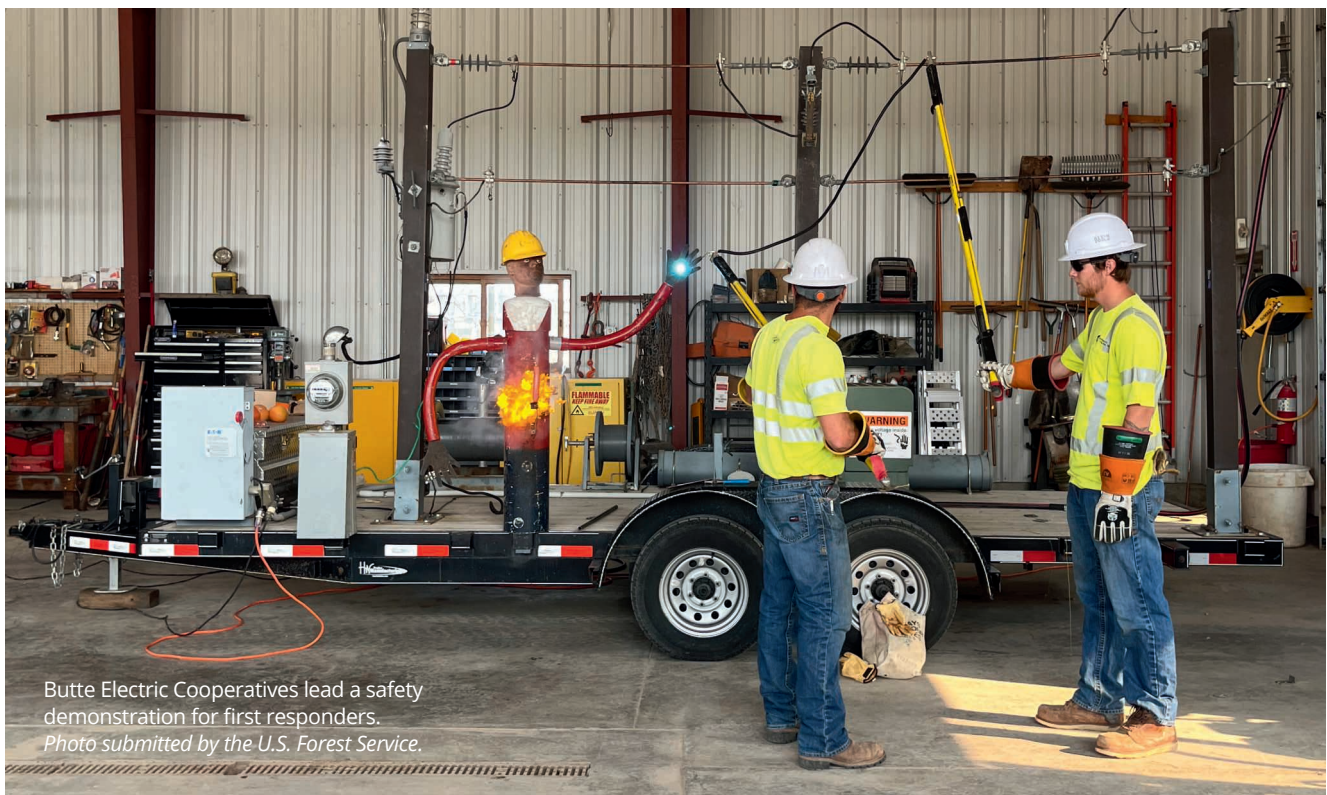
In a separate training tailored to the Sturgis Fire Department, Volunteer Fire Chief of the Sturgis Fire Department Scott Lensegrav said the training was impactful for his fellow volunteers. In addition to noting the value of the demonstration, Lensegrav highlighted the importance of maintaining a strong line of communication between electric service providers like Butte Electric and the fire department, especially during an emergency.

"In a situation involving power lines or electricity, the first thing we do is communicate with dispatch to try and figure out whose power line is involved in the emergency," said Lensegrav.

"The training was just another step in building good communication between our department and utilities. It was also great to have the refresher for our volunteers who have been with us for years and a good learning tool for the new volunteers that are coming into the service."

Looking forward, Sleep plans to continue strengthening the relationship between local first responders and Butte Electric for a safer future in their service area.

"It's all about building relationships and familiarity so that first responders know who to talk to and don't hesitate to call," said Sleep. "We deeply appreciate our first responders and want to help them however we can. These emergency personnel and volunteers are what make our communities great, and we just want to play our part in keeping them and our neighborhoods safe."



Butte Electric Cooperatives lead a safety demonstration for first responders.

Photo submitted by the U.S. Forest Service.



PREVENT HOLIDAY FIRES


Keep your family safe and your holiday merry with these fire safety tips



Cooking safety in the kitchen



The kitchen is often the heart of holiday celebrations, but it can also be a hot spot for fires. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), cooking equipment is the leading cause of home fires, accounting for nearly 20% of holiday-related incidents.

Here's how to stay safe:

- Never leave burners or the oven unattended. Keep a fire extinguisher nearby for emergencies.
 - Ensure children stay away from the kitchen, where hot appliances and sharp utensils can pose risks.
 - Install smoke detectors at least 10 feet away from cooking appliances and test them monthly to ensure they're working.
- 


Christmas tree fire prevention

A beautiful Christmas tree adds to the festive spirit, but it's essential to ensure it's safe.

- Choose a fresh tree. Fresh trees have needles that are hard to pull from branches and have a sticky trunk bottom.
 - Keep the tree away from heat sources such as fireplaces, space heaters and vents.
 - Check the water level daily to prevent the tree from drying out.
 - Place the tree away from high-traffic areas and doorways.
 - If using an artificial tree, ensure it is labeled as fire-resistant.
 - When discarding a real tree, place it far from your home and other combustible objects, as dried trees are highly flammable.
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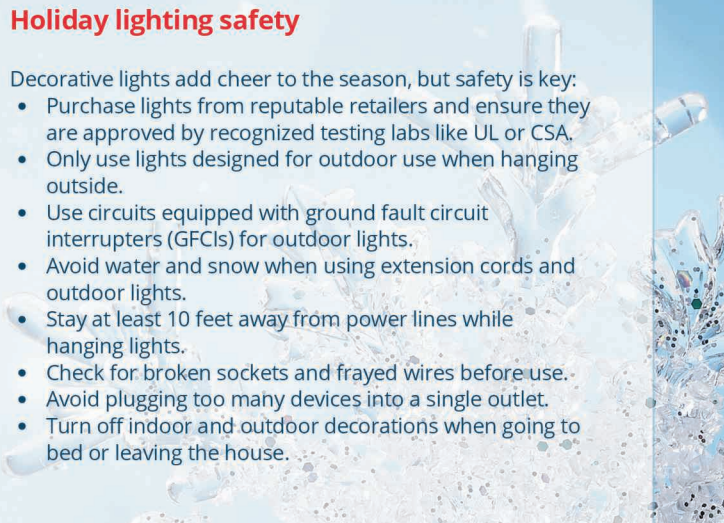


Candle safety

- Only burn candles where you can keep an eye on them.
 - Extinguish candles before going to bed, leaving the room or leaving the house.
 - Use heat-resistant surfaces for candles, placing them out of reach of children and pets.
 - Keep candles away from flammable items like trees, decorations, curtains and furniture.
 - Opt for battery-operated candles near flammable objects.
 - On average, fire departments respond to 150 Christmas tree-related fires and 790 decoration-related fires annually, according to the NFPA.
- 


Holiday lighting safety

Decorative lights add cheer to the season, but safety is key:

- Purchase lights from reputable retailers and ensure they are approved by recognized testing labs like UL or CSA.
 - Only use lights designed for outdoor use when hanging outside.
 - Use circuits equipped with ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) for outdoor lights.
 - Avoid water and snow when using extension cords and outdoor lights.
 - Stay at least 10 feet away from power lines while hanging lights.
 - Check for broken sockets and frayed wires before use.
 - Avoid plugging too many devices into a single outlet.
 - Turn off indoor and outdoor decorations when going to bed or leaving the house.
- 

Fireplace safety tips

A cozy fireplace is a holiday favorite, but it requires careful handling.

- Decorate wisely. Avoid hanging flammable decorations like stockings and greenery directly on the mantel.
 - Perform annual maintenance. Have your chimney and fireplace checked and cleaned at least once a year.
 - Use a screen. Install a screen to prevent embers from landing on floors or carpets.
 - Burn responsibly. Never burn trees, wreaths or wrapping paper in the fireplace, as they can ignite rapidly and cause flash fires.
- 



THE COUNTRY COOKIN'
cookbook

RECIPES NEEDED

Help us create another great cookbook by submitting your favorite recipes.

Submit recipes to graphics@eastriver.coop or contact your local co-op for more information.





Submit to be entered into a drawing for 1 of 2 \$100 Visa gift cards

Deadline for Submissions:
December 15th, 2024

SEPTEMBER OUTAGE REPORT
10 OR MORE CONSUMERS

9/07/24- 15 consumers were off 1 hour and 20 minutes Hansonville and Fortier Townships. The cause was an open Ocr. Caleb Christian - 1479200.

YEAR-TO-DATE COMPARISON		
AUGUST 2024		
	Aug- 2023	Aug- 2024
Total Revenue	\$7,265,660	\$7,141,619
Cost of Power	\$4,045,059	\$4,161,111
Operating Expenses	\$2,959,928	\$3,205,195
Operating Margins	\$260,673	\$(224,687)
KWH's Purchased	67,665,211	62,830,070
Services in Place	4,125	4,131
Miles of Line	1,671	1,671
Revenue per Mile	\$4,348	\$4,274

10
Holiday
TRAVEL SAFETY TIPS



Millions take to the highways over the holidays, making it one of the busiest travel times of the year.

If you're traveling by car this season, follow these safety tips:

1. Prepare Your Home

Cancel mail, pause deliveries and have someone check on your home. In snowy areas, arrange for snow removal.

2. Reduce Fire Risks

Unplug nonessential electrical devices and check smoke detectors.

3. Don't Overshare

Avoid posting travel plans on social media to prevent potential break-ins.

4. Inspect Your Car

Ensure tires are inflated and carry jumper cables, as cold weather can drain batteries.

5. Pack an Emergency Kit

Include a car phone charger, blankets, food and water, coats and a flashlight with batteries.

6. Check the Weather

Check the weather before and during your trip to avoid storms.

7. Buckle Up & Slow Down

Increase your following distance to safely navigate slick roads and allow extra time to get to your destination.

8. Take Frequent Breaks

Winter driving challenges can be tiring. Stop every few hours to stay alert and stay hydrated to avoid fatigue.

9. Share Your Itinerary

Let family or friends know your travel plans, whether you're on your way out or heading back home.

10. Put That Phone Away

Avoid distractions—winter driving requires your full attention.

Learn more at: 





DEC. 7
Santa at the Zoo
 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
 Great Plains Zoo
 Sioux Falls, SD
 605-367-7003

To have your event listed on this page, send complete information, including date, event, place and contact to your local electric cooperative. Include your name, address and daytime telephone number. Information must be submitted at least eight weeks prior to your event. Please call ahead to confirm date, time and location of event.

NOV. 29
Parade of Lights
 Parade of Lights
 7 p.m.
 Chamberlain, SD

NOV. 30
A Hometown Christmas Market
 2 p.m.-6 p.m.
 Main Street
 Elk Point, SD

NOV. 30
Mid-Winter Fair
 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
 Gregory Memorial Auditorium
 Gregory, SD
 605-830-9778

NOV. 29-DEC. 29
Trees & Trains Exhibit at SD State Railroad Museum
 Hill City, SD
 605-665-3636

DEC. 1
A Christmas Carol
 2 p.m.
 Gayville Music Hall
 Gayville, SD
 605-624-2859

DEC. 5
Christmas on the Prairie
 4 p.m.
 Main Street
 Miller, SD

DEC. 5
Holiday Festival of Lights
 4 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
 Yankton, SD
 605-665-3636

DEC. 6
Kimball's Hometown Holiday
 3:30-7 p.m.
 Legion Hall
 Kimball, SD

DEC. 6
Hometown Holiday Vendor Fair
 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
 Armory
 Howard, SD

DEC. 7
Newell Festival of Trees
 9 a.m. – Doors Open
 11:30 a.m. – Community Lunch
 4 p.m. – Auction
 Newell City Hall
 Newell, SD

DEC. 6-8, 13-15
A Sherlock Carol
 Dec. 6-7, 13-14, 7:30 p.m.
 Dec. 8, 15, 2:30 p.m.
 Corson, SD
 mightycorson.com

DEC. 7
Santa Day
 2 p.m.
 Stockholm Buggy Museum
 Stockholm, SD
 605-467-3940

DEC. 7
KJAM Parade of Lights
 5:30 p.m.
 Madison, SD
 605-256-4514

DEC. 7-31
Garden Glow at McCrory Gardens
 5 p.m.-9 p.m.
 Brookings, SD
 605-688-6707

DEC. 8
Aberdeen Community Concert Association Fund Raiser
2024 Medora Magical Christmas Memories Tour
 3 p.m.
 Aberdeen Civic Theater
 Aberdeen, SD
 605-228-0946
 aberdeencommunityconcerts.com

DEC. 14
Parade of Lights
 Wessington, SD
 605-359-2049

DEC. 15
A Poker Alice Christmas
 2 p.m.
 Gayville Music Hall
 Gayville, SD

DEC. 31
American Legion Post 15 Save the Last Dance 2024
 8 p.m.-12:30 a.m.
 El Riad Shrine
 Sioux Falls, SD
 605-336-3470

Note: Please make sure to call ahead to verify the event is still being held.